

NINETY-SIXTH YEAR.

ST. LOUIS, MO., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1903.

PRICE In St. Louis, One Cent.
Outside St. Louis, Two Cents.
On Train, Three Cents.ARREST MADE
IN LAND FRAUD
INVESTIGATION.John A. Benson, Said to Be
Head of Conspirators,
Taken in Custody at
Washington.

CAUGHT BY A DECOY LETTER.

San Francisco Real Estate Man
Is Alleged to Have Bribed
Clerk to Secure Infor-
mation.

OTHER ARRESTS TO FOLLOW.

Charged That System of Graft
Exists in Dozen Western
States and Government
Has Lost Thousands
of Dollars.

Washington, Dec. 18.—John A. Benson, a wealthy San Francisco real estate operator, charged by the Interior Department with being the head of the alleged land frauds extending over a dozen Western States and Territories, was arrested to-day at the Willard Hotel by Secret Service Officer John A. Burns, just as Benson was preparing to leave the city for New York.

The charge of which the arrest was made was bribery, it being alleged in the affidavit of Mr. Burns and in the warrant that Benson had paid \$500 to Woodford D. Harlan, formerly Chief of the Special Service Division of the General Land Office, and now a clerk in that office, on March 15 of this year, for the purpose of extracting from him information regarding the investigation of his operations at that time being made by the Land Office.

CASE SET DECEMBER 20.

The warrant was issued by United States Commissioner Anson S. Taylor, and as soon as Benson had been apprehended by Burns he was taken before Commissioner Taylor. He wished to have a preliminary hearing of his case postponed, and the date for such hearing was fixed for December 20. He gave bail for his appearance on that date, when the Government attorneys will ask to have him held for the Grand Jury.

The statement was made by an officer of the Government to-night that the information obtained regarding the alleged conspiracy implicates a number of persons at present employed in the Interior Department at Washington and elsewhere. Numerous arrests are expected to follow that of Benson in short order, and some employees who may not be arrested will be dismissed from the service.

The statement was made that Secretary Hitchcock was so incensed at the flagrant nature of this alleged offense that he told the officers to have Benson arrested at once, although it had not been planned to apprehend him at present.

Benson came to Washington in answer to decoy letters.

Benson is said to have been taken entirely by surprise in his arrest, although he has known that the Government has been investigating the alleged land frauds. He had no lawyer in Washington, and when he was taken immediately after his arrest before United States Commissioner Taylor a delay of an hour or more occurred while a lawyer was sought for him. Mr. Benson made a formal plea of "not guilty," and then his attorney asked that he be released on bail.

The accused offered bail in \$2,000 in cash, while the Government attorneys demanded a bond in the sum of \$10,000. Attorney Pagin, for the Government, said:

"This man was at the head of a great land fraud conspiracy extending over several Western States. He has bribed officers of the United States in the West and in the District. Since he came to this city a few days ago he has continued his bribery. And, what is more, in another case some years ago, when he was out on bond, he left the country and went to a foreign country and remained away for several years."

A heated argument followed this declaration, counsel for the defense asserting that it was improper. Finally Commissioner Taylor fixed the bond at \$5,000, and Mr. Benson was released.

Benson declined to make any statement further than to say he would appear when wanted.

It is asserted Benson has defrauded the Government out of at least 100,000 acres of land by various schemes since the passage of the forest reserve act in 1897. It is alleged Benson obtained advance information as to the land that would be wanted by the Government reserves, and that by means of fraudulent entries or by purchase immense tracts of such land were obtained and afterwards exchanged for valuable public lands.

CAR BECAME UNMANAGEABLE.

Crashed Into Coach Ahead Injuring Two Women.

In leaping to the pavement to avoid injury in a collision of two Bellefontaine cars on Florissant avenue near Carrie avenue, yesterday afternoon, Mrs. C. Kobusch of No. 647 Florissant avenue sustained bruises on the knee and hip and Mrs. Nora Crowley of No. 671 Florissant avenue suffered a concussion of the spine. Mrs. Crowley's injury is serious.

The accident was due to car No. 213, in charge of Motorman John Van Blarcom, becoming unmanageable. After getting beyond his control, the car ran for several blocks at top speed, finally overtaking car No. 213 near Carrie avenue. Foreseeing a collision several passengers on both cars escaped by leaping. Mrs. Kobusch and Mrs. Crowley were the only persons injured. Motorman Van Blarcom jumped.

POPE LEO LEFT \$9,000,000
IN CARDINAL GOTTI'S HANDS.

Faithful to His Trust, the Guardian Lays the Money at the Feet of Pius X, Who Was Much Affected at the Gift, Which Will Dispel the Monetary Cloud O'ershadowing the Vatican—Secrecy Was Enjoined on the Custodian by the Dying Wearer of the Triple Crown, and the Mysterious Disappearance of His Private Fortune Is Now Cleared.

ELECTRICIAN FINDS FORTUNE CONCEALED BY PONTIFF.

Rome, Dec. 18.—According to the Tribune, the Vatican had sudden wealth poured into its coffers to-day. For some time certain sums which were known to be possessed by Pope Leo were looked for without result, the search toward the end becoming somewhat feverish.

Cardinal Gotti, Prefect of the Propaganda, accompanied by Mr. Marzolini, one of the late Pope's secretaries, drove up to the Vatican to-day, and, getting out hurriedly began tugging at a heavy object in the carriage. Assistance was offered, but it was refused, and Cardinal Gotti and Mr. Marzolini between them carried the mysterious object to the apartment of Pope Pius. They were immediately admitted, and remained for two hours.

Intense curiosity was aroused by this act, as it was believed to have some relation to missing wealth, and the wildest rumors were circulated. It soon became known, however, that the bag contained \$9,000,000 francs (\$1,500,000 in bank notes and gold).

When Cardinal Gotti entered the presence of the Pope he sank to his knees and, pointing to his burden, said:

"Your Holiness, the lamented Leo, just before his death, confided to me the money

which I now lay at your feet, saying that if I succeeded him I was to use it as I thought best, but that if another took his place I was to turn the money over to him after a period of four months had elapsed. This I now do, in the presence of Mr. Marzolini, who has been the only other person to share the secret."

The Pope was much affected. The Tribune goes on to relate that just about the time this scene was being enacted in the papal apartments an electrician, while removing the hangings in the late Pope Leo's chamber in order to get at the electric-light wires, found in a hole in the wall several bags, which were carefully tied. These bags, when opened, were found to contain 9,500,000 francs (\$1,580,000) in gold.

LEO'S OBJECT LESSON FOR HIS SUCCESSOR.

Paris, Dec. 18.—The Rome correspondent of the Figaro says that the alleged reason for Pope Leo's course was that he wished his successor to learn how difficult it would be to rule the church without money, thereby impressing upon him the necessity for economy.

MANY STUDENTS LOSE LIVES
THROUGH FIRE AND PANIC.

Flames Discovered Late at Night in Women's Dormitory of Walden University, a Negro Institution at Nashville, Tenn.—Wild Rush to Windows Follows and Frantic Persons Leap for Their Lives.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 18.—Four persons were known to have been killed and perhaps thirty others are injured, twelve of them fatally, in a fire here to-night, which consumed the Central Tennessee College for young negro women, a department of Walden University.

It is possible that the ruins may contain the bodies of other victims.

The property loss is estimated at \$25,000. The known dead are:

MATTIE LOU MOORE, Huntsville, Ala.
STELLA EDISON, Mississippi.
Unidentified girl.

It is feared there are many more in the burning building.

FIREMAN KILLED
IN TRAIN WRECK.

Dixie Flyer on Illinois Central
Crashes in Freight at
Church Station.

MAIL CARS ARE BURNED.

Thomas Hastings Buried Beneath
Debris and Passengers Are
Injured—Engineer Es-
capes Injury by
Jumping.

KILLED AND INJURED.
Thomas Hastings, passenger fire-
man; killed.
Henry Hartmann, passenger en-
gineer; severely injured.
Rhodes Merchon, passenger; fa-
tally injured.

The Dixie Flyer, on the Illinois Central, which left Union Station at 9:40 o'clock last night, was wrecked about 10:30 o'clock near Church Station, in St. Clair County, Illinois.

The passenger train crashed into the rear end of a freight train.

Thomas Hastings of No. 423 Brady avenue, East St. Louis, fireman on the passenger train, was killed outright.

Rhodes Merchon, who was riding on the freight, was fatally injured. Merchon's limbs were dislocated, and he suffered internal injuries. He was taken to St. Mary's Hospital.

Henry Hartmann, engineer of the passenger train, escaped by jumping.

The wreck is supposed to have been caused by the breaking in two of the freight train, which backed down a grade. A storm was in progress at the time and the rear lights were either extinguished or were not seen by the crew of the passenger train.

Fireman Hastings first noticed the cars ahead. He shouted to his engineer to jump, but was not quick enough to save his own life. At an early hour this morning his body had not been taken from the wreck.

CARS ON FIRE.

Fire from the engine was communicated to the three mail cars back of the tender and they were destroyed. Many of the cars of both trains were demolished and it is believed that persons are buried in the debris.

One of the freight cars was loaded with cartridges, many of which exploded from contact with the heat.

Doctors H. P. Fairbrother and J. L. Wiggins of East St. Louis went on a special car to the scene of the wreck to aid the sufferers.

LEADING TOPICS
—IN—
TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

THE SUN RISES THIS MORNING AT 7:30 AND SETS THIS EVENING AT 4:30.
THE MOON SETS THIS EVENING AT 5:44.

GRAIN CLOSES: ST. LOUIS—MAY
WHEAT 85½c; MAY CORN 42½c; BID.
CHICAGO—MAY WHEAT 82½c; BID;
MAY CORN 43½c ASKED.

For Missouri—Rain Saturday; colder in west. Sunday, fair; colder in east.

For Illinois—Rain or snow in north; rain in south Saturday, Sunday, fair; colder.

For Arkansas—Rain Saturday, Sunday, fair and colder.

For East Texas—Rain Saturday, except fair in northeast. Sunday, fair; colder.

For West Texas—Fair Saturday, preceded by rain in north; colder in north. Sunday, fair.

POPE LEO LEFT \$9,000,000.
Hundreds Attend Butler Funeral.
Lipton Is Ready for Another Race.

2. Senator Daniel Supports Hoar.

3. Sister Republics Plan Big Exhibits.

Chinese Treaty Is Ratified.

4. General Sporting News.

5. Book News and Comment.

6. Editorial.

Pretty Decorations and Costumes at Imperial Ball.

Cocktail's Caucus Attitude.

Government Aid Asked for Oregon Expedition.

7. Bride's Legacy Lost Twenty-Seven Years.

Candidate Mayo Has a Platform.

8. Dun's and Bradstreet's Weekly Trade Reviews.

Father and Son Shot to Death.

Four Divorce Suits Entered.

MacArthur's Remarks Were in Private.

PART II.

Ballard Is Out for H. B. Hawes.

Frye President of Police Board.

Laborer's \$32 Found in a Laundry Tub.

2. Happenings in East Side Cities.

3. Religious News and Announcements.

4. Republic "Want" Ads.

Birth, Marriage and Death Records.

New Corporations.

5. Rooms for Rent Ads.

6. Live-Stock Markets.

Weekly Bank Statement.

7. Sudden Rise Due to Steel.

Transit Shares Advance.

Chicago Grain Market.

Summary of St. Louis Markets.

8. Woman's Training School Holds Annual Bazaar.

Of Interest to Women.

Heart Found on Wrong Side.

Robbed While Asleep.

Joseph Johnson of 308 Gratiot street reported to the police last night that burglars had entered his house and had taken \$200 and a quantity of silver knives and spoons. A peculiarity of the case was the fact that the stolen goods were taken from under a mattress of the bed upon which Johnson, his wife and three children were sleeping.

WAR IN FAR EAST
SEEMS INEVITABLE;
ENGLAND WORRIED.

Japan Only Dissuaded From
Sending Ultimatum by Lord
Lansdowne's Influ-
ence.

INSURANCE RATES HIGHER.

Russia Continues to Send War-
ships, While Soldiers Are Hur-
ried Forward Day and
Night.

NOW SEEKS TO RULE KOREA.

Radicals Insist That Japanese
Domination at Seoul Would Be
a Constant Menace to Rus-
sian Interests in Man-
churia.

ENGLAND MAY COMPEL
MILITARY TRAINING.

London, Dec. 18.—The Daily Mail this morning publishes an unconfirmed statement that the War Office is preparing a scheme for the compulsory military training of all males between the ages of 18 and 22 years.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC.
London, Dec. 18.—(Copyright, 1903.)—London regards war in the far East as practically inevitable.

What form Japan's reply to the long-delayed Russian note has taken is not known outside of the Foreign Office, to which it was communicated yesterday, but it is believed that, while an opening is left for further negotiations, the Russian proposals are rejected as unacceptable.

It is stated that the first draft of the Japanese reply was couched in terms like those of an ultimatum, but that, through Lord Lansdowne's influence, a more conciliatory tone was adopted.

Nobody here believes, however, that either side will abate a jot or tittle of its claims, and the only questions now asked are for how long hostilities can be postponed and which Power will get in the first blow.

A report was telegraphed from London to a provincial paper that war had actually broken out, and the Japanese Minister was deluged with inquiries. Viscount Hayashi's tone was less optimistic than usual, though he expressed confidence that the negotiations would be continued.

War risks at Lloyd's rose about 5 per cent to-day, 30 guineas per cent being quoted for the end of January and 25 to the end of February.

Ordinary insurance on a cargo to and from Japan rose about 5 per cent, with a fair amount of business.

WARSHIPS ON WAY.

Bizerta, Tunis, Dec. 18.—The Russian naval forces now anchored here, comprising a battleship, three armored cruisers and several torpedo boats, commanded by Admiral Wierenski, will be re-enforced in a few days by six torpedo boats, and will proceed hence to the far East.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 18.—A traveler who has just returned from Manchuria reports that Russian troops are still moving night and day toward Port Arthur.

NOW CLAIM KOREA.

Seoul, Dec. 18.—The attitude of the Russians here indicates a positive determination to prevent Japan from gaining a foothold in Korea.

The Radical Insist that Russia must reach the sea to insure protection in the future, and argue that Japan, in possession of Korea, would be a constant menace.

The Emperor still studiously avoids an answer to the questions of United States Minister Allen in regard to Wiju. The latter is now pressing the matter and has asked for another audience.

The Russians are inclined to resent American activity concerning Wiju, and say that the Americans are playing the Japanese game. The Russians do not object to Americans coming in and trading with Manchuria, but assert that the opening of Mukden and An-Tung admitted Japanese, whose presence is constantly irritating, and that it might lead to a repetition of this if Yungnampho and Wiju are opened.

They say that Americans now enjoy a large trade with Manchuria, which, except in the matter of flour, will largely increase in the future and insist that the present attitude of America only injures a friend and customer and favors a manufacturing rival.

MATTHEWS CASE
IS CONTINUED.

Judge Graves Sets Hearing of
Senator From St. Louis
County for March 25.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.
Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 18.—Judge Graves, special judge in the State boudle case, to-day continued the case of Senator Buell L. Matthews to March 25, when it will be heard after the Parrie and Smith cases, which are set for March 21 and 23, respectively.

There was effort made by the defense to have the case heard to-day, but Judge Graves ruled that under the agreement between the attorneys to try the case after the Parrie and Smith cases, it must go over.

The date of taking depositions in the bribery cases against Prosecuting Attorney R. P. Stone was postponed to January 13.

RESOLUTION IN SENATE
WOULD CURB PRESIDENT
IN COURSE ON PANAMA.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Senator Morgan to-day introduced a resolution declaring that the President has no right to wage war against any foreign Power without the consent of Congress, when such country is at peace with the United States; that the provision of the canal treaty between the United States and Panama, guaranteeing the independence of the Republic of Panama, is, in effect, a declaration of war with Colombia; that the intervention of the United States in preventing Colombia to suppress the secession of Panama is contrary to the law of neutrality and the law of nations.

The important features of the resolution are:

That neither the President, nor the President and the Senate, as the treaty-making power of the United States, has the lawful power to wage or declare war against any foreign Power without the consent of Congress.

That a state of war exists between Colombia and an organization in the Colombian department of Panama, which claims to have accomplished the secession of Panama from Colombia and to have established its independence.

That if Colombia is not prevented by some powerful foreign nation, she is manifestly able to maintain her present effort to repress the said secession.

And the President of the United States, having entered into treaty relations with persons who claim to have seceded from Colombia, with a stipulation which is, in effect, a declaration of war with Colombia and is not within the limits of any power conferred upon the President by act of Congress or the Constitution or by the law of nations.

That the President has no lawful right of power, without the consent of Congress, and under the conditions that exist in Panama, to use the military and naval forces of the United States to prevent Colombia from enforcing her claim to the proper exercise of her sovereignty and to execute her laws in the Department of Panama.

The resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives in 1899 is repeated. The sense of this is that the Government of the United States looks with serious concern and disapproval upon any connection of any European Government with the construction and control of any ship canal across the isthmus.

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TROOPS MAY SOON
FOLLOW MARINES
TO THE ISTHMUS.

War and Navy Departments
Show Great Activity and
News From Panama
Is Withheld.

COMPLICATIONS INCREASING.

General Elliott Will Sail for Co-
lon on Transport That Carries
Naval Fighting Men.

REYES ACTING WITH CAUTION.

Fears That Presentation of His
Formal Demands Will Pre-
cipitate Hostile Demonstra-
tions on Part of Coun-
trymen.

COLOMBIAN COMMITTEE
MAKES THREAT OF WAR.

Paris, Dec. 18.—The "United Colombian Committee" here gave out a statement to-day saying that Colombia would first seek through a commission to induce the United States to recognize Colombia's rights under the treaty of 1846; second, if the commission fails, Colombia will ask for the submission of the question to the Hague arbitration court; third, if its submission to the Hague court is refused, Colombia will go to war and rely on the Latin Republics to come to her aid.

Washington, Dec. 18.—After a conference to-day between Secretary Moody, Rear Admiral Taylor, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, and Brigadier General George Elliott, commandant of the Marine Corps, it was decided that, if present conditions on the isthmus of Panama continue, General Elliott will sail for Colon on the Dixie, from Philadelphia, when that vessel goes south with the new battalion of marines which has been ordered assembled at Philadelphia for dispatch to the isthmus.

The Dixie is now on her way north for this purpose.

General Elliott has been anxious for several days to obtain a field command, and it is the present intention of the officials to grant his request.

It was said at the Navy Department to-day that, in view of the growing complications over the Panama situation, it is inadvisable longer to announce the plans of the department with the freedom shown in the last few weeks, and for that reason a cablegram received to-day from Rear Admiral Coghlan was not made public.

The Navy Department is informed that the gunboat Petrel left San Francisco yesterday for Acapulco on her way to Panama, where she will be assigned to patrol duty with the other vessels of the Pacific Squadron, commanded by Rear Admiral Glass.

REYES IS CAREFUL.

Because of the determination of General Reyes to support all the contentions he makes in his brief, that this or that phase of this Government's isthmian policy was against precedent, by historical references as well as by high authorities of international law, the preparation of the paper to be presented to the State Department is taking longer than was at first expected.

Indeed, General Reyes is not in any haste to send it for this may be taken by the Colombians as the termination of their envoy's mission here and the country might seize on the opportunity to make war, a contingency which General Reyes has thus far used his utmost endeavors to prevent.

Colombian Legation officials are not inclined to pass upon the right of the Atlanta to make a reconnoiter on Colombian territory, but it is evident that in their opinion such action is strictly in accordance with the best international etiquette.

General Reyes is following with keen interest the canal debate in the Senate. It was stated to-day he had been profoundly impressed by the speech of Senator Hoar. Copies of the speech will be sent to Bogota for publication.

"STONEWALL" JACKSON'S
CHIEF OF STAFF DEAD.

General H. Kyd Douglas Passed
Away, at 63, After Lingering
Illness at His Sister's Home.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.
Hagerstown, Md., Dec. 18.—General H. Kyd Douglas, "Stonewall" Jackson's chief of staff, died at his home in this city this evening after a lingering illness, aged 63. He had been failing for more than a year.

General Douglas resided with his sister, Mrs. Breckenbaugh, in a handsome mansion on Potomac avenue, where he surrounded himself with a splendid library and many trophies of the Civil War. He was a bachelor.

General Douglas was born near Shepherdstown, W. Va. His sister with her son and daughter are his only surviving relatives.

BOOTH RELICS SOLD CHEAP.

Home Where Lincoln's Assassin
Planned His Flight Stripped.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.
Washington, Dec. 18.—The personal effects of Mrs. Surratt were sold at public sale to-day at Clinton—the new name for Surrattville—in Prince George County, Maryland, a few miles from this city.

Many of the household furniture were sold for less than kindling wood value.

The late Mrs. Mary Surratt was a native of Prince George County. At her home John Wilkes Booth was a frequent guest, and a few days before the assassination of President Lincoln he journeyed through Charles County to mark out the route of his flight through the southern section on his way to Virginia.